

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2776

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5605

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: HONORARY PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1974.

1. AT PERMREP LUNCH NOVEMBER 20, SYG LUNS RAISED QUESTION OF HONORARY PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL NEXT YEAR, WHICH INCLUDES NATO'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY. (LUNS OBVIOUSLY HAD IN MIND THAT UNDER THE NORMAL ROTATION, THE GREEK FONMIN, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY DEFERRED THE HONOR, WOULD BE PRESIDENT. LUNS WAS SEEKING TO FINESSE PROBLEMS IN THE ALLIANCE THAT COULD RESULT FROM GREEK PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL AT PRESENT TIME.

2. LUNS SAID SOME HAD SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF FACT THAT UK FONSEC FOUGLAS-HOME IS DEAN OF NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS, IT MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE TO INTERRUPT THE NORMAL ROTATION TO OFFER THIM PRESIDENCY OF COUNCIL DURING 25TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR.

3. UK PERMREP PECK WAS NOT SURE SIR ALEX WOULD WISH TO SERVE AS HONORARY PRESIDENT. NEXT FONMIN IN NORMAL ROTATION AFTER GREEK IS NORWEGIAN.

4. DISCUSSION LED TOWARD CONSENSUS THAT SIR ALEC SHOULD BE APPROACHED TO SEE IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO SERVE, AND, IF SO, GREEK AND NORWEGIAN FONMINS SHOULD BE APPROACHED TO SEE IF THEY
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WOULD STAND ASIDE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHETHER U.S. WISHES TO SEE GREEK FONMIN AS HONORARY CHAIRMAN NEXT YEAR, OR

NORWEGIAN FONMIN, OR TO FOLLOW LUNS' SUGGESTION TO SEEK AGREEMENT
THAT UK FONMIN SHOULD SERVE.
RUMSFELD

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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